sonnel and Training), under sub-section (2) of section 3 of the All India Service Act, 1951:— (i) G.S.R. 736(E), dated December 31, 1997 publishing the Indian Administrative Service (Regulation of Seniority) Amendment Rules, 1997. (ii) G.S.R. 737(E), dated December 31, 1997 publishing the Indian Police Service (Regulation of Seniority) Amendment Rules, 1997.

(iii) G.S.R. 738(E), dated December 31, 1997 publishing the Indian Forest Service (Regulation of Seniority) Rules, 1997.

(iv) G.S.R. 739(E), dated December 31, 1997 publishing the Indian Administrative Service (Fixation of Cadre Strength) Fifth Amendment Regulations, 1997.

(v) G.S.R. 740(E), dated De cember 31, 1997 publishing the Indian Police Service (Fixation of Cadre Strength) Seventh Amendment Regulations, 1997.

(vi) G.S.R. 741(E), dated De cember 31, 1997 publishing the Indian Forest Service (Fixation of Cadre Strength) Third Amendment Regulations, 1997.

(vii) G.S.R. 413, dated December 20, 1997 publishing the Indian Forest Service (Fixation of Cadre Strength) Second Amendment Regulations,1997.

(viii) G.S.R. 414, dated December 20, 1997 publishing the Indian Forest Service (Pay) Third Amendment Rules, 1997.

(ix) G.S.R. 58, dated March 14, 1998 publishing the Indian Administrative Service (Fixation of Cadre Strength) Amendment Regulations, 1998. (x) G.S.R. 59, dated March 14, 1998 publishing the Indian Administrative Service (Pay) Amendment Rules, 1998. (xi) G.S.R. 75, dated April 4, 1998, the Indian Administrative Service (Fixation of Cadre Strength) Second Amendment Regulations, 1998. (xii) G.S.R. 76, dated April 4, 1998 publishing the Indian Administrative Service (Pay) Second Amendment Rules, 1998. [Placed in Library *See* No. Lt-]

MOTION FOR ELECTION TO THE COCONUT DEVELOPMENT BOARD

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOM PAL): Sir, I move:

"That in pursuance of clause (e) of sub section (4) of the Coconut Development Board Act, 1979 (No. 5 of 1979) read with clause (i) of sub-rule (1) of Rule 4 of the Coconut Development Board Rules, 1981, this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Chairman may direct, one Member from among the Members of the House to be a Member of the Coconut Development Board."

The question was put and the motion was adopted

RESOLUTION RE: PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE TO REVIEW RATE .OF DIVIDEND PAYABLE BY INDIAN RAILWAYS TO GENERAL REVENUES

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI N1TISH KUMAR): Sir, I move:

"That this House concurs in the recommendation of the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha do agree to the nomination by the Chairman of six Members from the Rajya Sabha to the Parliamentary Committee to review the Rate of Dividend which is at present Payable by the Indian Railways to the General Revenues as well as other ancillary matters in connection with

Railway Finance vis-a-vis General Finance and to make recommendations thereon."

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now Zero Hour mentions. Shri Jitendra Prasada, not here. Shri Surjewala, not here. Shri Kishore Chandra S. Deo.

RE. IMPROPRIETY ON THE PART OF FINANCE MINISTER ON PETROL†PRICES

SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA S. DEO (Andhra Pradesh): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Sir. I would like to draw the attention of the House and the Prime Minister who is fortunately here on a *faux pas* that was created with regard to increase in petrol prices just a couple of days ago. Mr. Chairman, Sir, the confusion still seems to persist and the claim that the *faux pas* was rectified has not yet apparently been cleared. Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Finance Minister, in his Budget Speech has said that the one rupee increase pertains to petroleum that is imported. I do not know whether there is a definite account of the quantity of petrol that is produced indigenously in India and the quantity of petrol that is produced from crude that is imported.

I was speaking about the confusion regarding the increase in the price of petrol. First of all, this clearly exposes the manner in which this Government is functioning. Was this done under the direction or with the consent of the Finance Minister, or the Petroleum Ministry did it in a *suo motu* action which the country did not know and we did not know? Forget about the money loss which the people had to suffer to which I will come later but considering the fact, this is quite in contravention of the assurance of the Finance Minister in his Budget speech.

What is the position? Is this one rupee increase which the Finance Minister had made, on the petrol that is produced out of the imported crude oil or is it across the board?

Secondly, is the rise in petrol price—because of the excise duty or is it an administered price rise by the Petroleum Ministry? Sir, there were some reports which say that in the evening of the Budget day, the officials of the Petroleum Ministry were trying to track down the Finance Minister. His people were also busy doing before the TV cameras that day. In the meantime the damage was done. Crores of rupees were paid in excess. Rs. 9 crores or 10 crores is a substantial amount. The fact is that there are poor commuters who cannot afford to lose that much money for buying petrol at that rate. Today they do not know where to go for the refund. The Petrol Pump say that it will be given by the petroleum companies, whether Hindustan Petroleum or Bharat Petroleum. Whoever it is, they have not announced anything. The Government is silent about it except saying that the mistake has been corrected when confusion seems to have been confounded further. This is the manner in which the Government is functioning. Where has the concept of collective functioning gone? Who is going to take the responsibility for this? Is it the Finance Minister or the Petroleum Minister? Ultimately who is going to bear the losses that these poor people had to incur? Therefore, Sir, I would like the Prime Minister and his Government to make a Statement before this House to let us know how this confusion occurred first of all. We are keen to know because tomorrow any department may start announcing things on their own. If there is no coordination between them, if there is no interaction, if without consulting the Finance Ministry other Ministries start announcing things on their own, what will happen to the administration of the Government? Therefore, I appeal to the hon. Prime Minister who is sitting over here to first assure this House that this will not happen in future and, secondly, that those people who have paid in excess will recover it. Thank you.